(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Government has been receiving demands for job reservation on various grounds, for example, from the National Federation of the Blind (for increased reservation in Group C and D and reservation in Groups A&B), Akhil Bhartiya Vishwakarma Panchal Mahasabha (for 10 per cent reservation for Artisans in various Government Bodies), the Vanniyar Sangam (for 2 per cent reservation in Central Govt. jobs) etc. These demands are examined and suitable decisions taken.

Rural and urban candidates for IAS and other allied services

702. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage and absolute number of rural and urban candidates selected in the 1986 and 1987 year Examination for IAS and other allied services;

(b) whether age limit of 26 years has been considered satisfactory; and

(c) whether Government are considering to increase the age limit for future examinations

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Union Public Service Commission had analysed the data furnished by 856 candidates who had qualified for appointment on the results of the Civil Services Examination, 1986. 68 per cent (584) candidates had indicated their places of birth in rural areas and towns. 56 per cent (481) candidates had indicated that their parents/guardians had lived in rural areas and towns during the previous 15 years. 57 per cent (486) candidates had indicated that they had studied upto Higher Secondary level in the rural areas and towns.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No. Sir

French offer for Nuclear Plant in India

703. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) is a fact that during the recent visit of President Mitterrand of France in the bilateral talks between our Prime Minister and President Mitterrand there was an offer for setting up of nuclear power plant in India by France with latest design; and

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard was concluded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No such offer came up in the talks between the Prime Minister and the President.

(b) Does not arise.

Collaboration with France for Space Studies

704 SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit of President of France, there

was any agreement entered into for collaboration in space studies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir. However, there is an ongoing agreement for Indo-French Collaboration in the field of outer Space; and

(b) During the recent visit of President Mitterrand and his team to India, discussions were held with the French Minister of Research and Technology on possible areas of future cooperation in space technology.

Branches of the Central Government Employees Consumers Society in Delhi/New Delhi

705. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches opened by the Central Government Employees Consumers Cooperative Society Ltd. (CGECCS), in Delhi/New Delhi as on 28.2.1989 alongwith their location as well as sanctioned strength of staff and staff posted in each of these Branches post-wise and branch-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that in majority of branches the clerical/salesman job such as issuing of receipts and collecting of cash etc. have been entrusted to Helpers without any additional payment to them for performing these duties; if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether the authorities propose to make any policy to sanction extra monetary relief to such Helpers who perform such duties of so, by when and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The number of branches opened by Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Ltd. in Delhi as on 28th February, 1989 are 50, excluding the five mobile vans. Their location and also list of staff posted in each of these Branches post-wise and branch-wise are enclosed in statement I and II respectively. (*See* below).

(b) A team of managers/Sr. Salesman/Jr. Salesman/Helper work in the branch stores depending upon the volume of sales and accommodation of the store. In view of the need to provide satisfaction to the consumers Sr. Salesman, Jr. Salesman may do the work of helper and helper may assist the sales staff in the stores at the time of rush of work or any staff member being on leave.

(c) There is no policy to sanction extra monetary relief to such helpers as the staff in the branch stores work as a team and may have to assist each other which is always of a very temporary nature.